

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

TRSE-00 /072 W

-----066882 171427Z /46/17

O R 170902Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 264

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12535

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, JA, OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: ASEAN

1. EMBASSY WILL BE PREPARING ASSESSMENT OF JAPANESE ROLE AT RECENT ASEAN SUMMIT AND FUKUDA'S SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO SEA CAPITALS. AT FIRST GLANCE, HOWEVER, PRIMIN'S TOUR APPEARS TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RECOUPED GROUND LOST DURING FORMER PRIMIN TANAKA'S RIOT-EVOKING VISIT THREE YEARS AGO, AND TO HAVE PROVIDED JAPANESE WITH USEFUL SYMBOL OF THEIR INTENTION TO ASSUME MORE VISIBLE ROLE IN SUPPORTING REGIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. THERE IS GOOD EVIDENCE THAT BOTH FUKUDA AND FONOFF PERCEIVE THEIR ASEAN INITIATIVE, IN WHICH THEY INVESTED CONSIDERABLE ENERGY AND POLITICAL CAPITAL, AS APPROPRIATE
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RESPONSE TO CALL FOR AN EXPANDED ASIAN ROLE ON PART OF JAPAN CONTAINED IN CARTER-FUKUDA JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THIS MARCH. MOREOVER, FONOFF HAS TAKEN CARE TO KEEP US APPRISED OF THEIR POLICY DECISIONS WITH UNDERLYING HOPE THAT OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES TOWARDS SE ASIA CAN MESH WITH MINIMUM OF FRICTION. (AT SAME TIME JAPANESE ARE ALSO WELL AWARE THAT ANY INFORMAL POLICY CONSULTATIONS

SHOULD NOT BE SUCH AS TO CONVEY DAMAGING IMPRESSION OF
"US-JAPAN COLLUSION" TOWARDS REGION.)

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE
HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR SECRETARY TO COMMENT FAVORABLY
ON JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS CHARACTERIZED BY FUKUDA'S
TRIP, IN COURSE OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIMIN AND
FONMIN, CONGRATULATING THEM ON THEIR SUCCESS IN STRENGTH-
ENING JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN STATES. ON PUBLIC
LEVEL, WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT BOTH WHITE HOUSE AND/OR
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN BE PREPARED ON IF ASKED BASIS TO
WELCOME PM FUKUDA'S EXPRESSIONS OF JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR
SE ASIAN REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL STABILITY
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH PUBLIC
STATEMENTS CAN BE CAST IN GENERAL ENOUGH TERMS AS TO
AVOID ANY IMPRESSION OF "COLLUSION."
MANSFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: TREASURY PLS TAKE AS ORIGINAL

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